

Welcome to the **Western Illinois Western Africa (WIWA) Partnership**, a merging between the academic resources of **Western Illinois University (WIU)** and the hands on experience of the **EDEN-EDUCARE Foundation Nigeria**.

This project was born out of a profound respect for our work as first responders in our communities. Whether you are feeding the hungry, reintegrating street children into schools, or caring for the elderly and people with disabilities, you have been doing this vital work out of pure passion. WIWA is here to support us in bridging the gap between that passion and the formalized **project management knowledge** required to thrive in a global environment with lean/non-existent resources.

The Power of the Project DPro Certification

The **Project Management for Development Professionals (Project DPro)** certification is the global standard designed specifically by and for the NGO sector. Here is why this certification is a game-changer for you and the communities you serve:

1. Immediate Advantages: From Passion to Professional

- **Global Recognition:** You will join a network of over 30,000 certified professionals worldwide. This certification serves as international evidence of your skills and technical competence.
- **A Common Language:** You will gain a common vocabulary that allows you to communicate effectively with international partners, peer organizations, and donors anywhere in the world.
- **Technical Prowess:** You will master the "science" of project management—learning how to use standardized tools like **Logical Frameworks (LogFrames)**, **Risk Registers**, and **Work Breakdown Structures** to plan and track your work with precision.
- **Confidence:** Studies show that **86% of practitioners** report significantly higher confidence in their management abilities after becoming DPro certified.

2. Long-Term Growth: Building a Sustainable Career

- **Elite Professional Status:** In an industry that relies on projects, being certified positions you as an elite practitioner ready for higher leadership roles.
- **Leadership & Mentorship:** As you grow, you can become a **DPro Champion**, mentoring other grassroots leaders and creating a sustainable ecosystem of local expertise.
- **Career Mobility:** This qualification is recognized by major international bodies like the **UN, Save the Children,** and **Mercy Corps**, opening doors for professional advancement both locally and globally.

Transforming Your Community

By professionalizing your approach, the impact on your community becomes more durable:

- **Increased Efficiency:** You will learn to do "more with less," ensuring that every naira and every hour spent results in maximum impact for children and vulnerable groups.
- **Proven Results:** Organizations using DPro report fewer delays and better-quality services. This means more clinics built on time and more effective educational programs for street children.

- **Sustainability:** You will learn to design projects that don't just provide temporary relief but foster long-term community resilience and local ownership.

A Gateway to Funding

Accessing funding is one of the most persistent challenges in lean resource environments. The Project DPro certification directly addresses this by:

- **Signaling Accountability:** Major donors like **USAID** and the **UN** require evidence of transparency and financial control. Certification signals that your organization is a safe and reliable partner for investment.
- **Winning Proposals:** The DPro methodology teaches you to build the exact **Logical Frameworks (LogFrames)** that donors use to evaluate the logic and feasibility of grant applications.
- **Institutional Trust:** Successful implementation using these standards builds a track record of reliability, which is your most valuable asset when seeking long-term funding partnerships.

We are honored to walk this path together as we transition into globally recognized professionals, making the world better—one project at a time.